

Rep. Betty McCollum to join Secretary Solis at 10th Avenue Bridge site

WASHINGTON, DC – Secretary of Labor Hilda L. Solis will visit construction workers and business leaders at the 10th Avenue Bridge in Minneapolis on Thursday, Sept. 29, to discuss the American Jobs Act's impact for Minnesota's economy and the state's workers. She also will address a national young workers conference hosted by the AFL-CIO to discuss what the president's plan means for youth, college students and young professionals.

The American Jobs Act will invest more than \$600 million in the North Star State to fund highway and transit modernization projects — which could put roughly 7,500 Minnesotans back to work modernizing roads and bridges. In 2007, there were 116,000 people employed by Minnesota's construction sector. Today, that number is down to 86,300.

More than 1,000 bridges in Minnesota, including the 10th Avenue Bridge, are in need of serious repairs. Roughly 8 percent of all the state's bridges, or one in 12, is considered structurally deficient — a startling statistic for the more than 80,000 residents who drive over these bridges each day.

Secretary Solis has invited members of the Minnesota Building and Construction Trades Council, the Association of Women Contractors, the National Association of Minority Contractors, the Association of General Contractors, the Minnesota Department of Transportation and the Minnesota AFL-CIO, as well as small business owners, community leaders and unemployed laborers, to discuss the American Jobs Act at the bridge site.

WHO: Hilda L. Solis, secretary of labor Hilda L. Solis, secretary of labor

Rep. Betty McCollum (4th District, Minnesota)

WHAT: Discussion on the American Jobs Act AFL-CIO "Next Up" Conference

WHERE: 10th Avenue Bridge Hilton Minneapolis Hotel

West River Parkway, Minneapolis 1001 Marquette Ave.

parking available at Bohemian Flats Park, Minneapolis, Minn.

approximately one block southeast of the bridge

WHEN: Thursday, Sept. 29 Thursday, Sept. 29

2:15 p.m. CDT 5:15 p.m. CDT

These events are open to press.

Media planning to cover them are requested to notify the Labor Department's

Office of Public Affairs in Chicago at 312-353-6976.

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